

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 NEA-14 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 211917Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0205

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: WEU ASSEMBLY -- TRANS ATLANTIC RELATIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AS WAS CASE AT LAST WEU ASSEMBLY MEETING (NOVEMBER 1973), ISSUE OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS DOMINATED CURRENT SESSION OF ASSEMBLY. DEBATE JUNE 19 FOCUSED ON TWO REPORTS, BASED LARGELY ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES' VISITS TO US IN MARCH 1974.

ATLANTICIST VIEW SUFFERED WATERING DOWN IN FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ALTHOUGH ASSEMBLY CAME THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR IN ITS SUPPORT OF NATO AND OF CLOSER US-EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. CRITCHLEY (UK-CONSERVATIVE), PRESENTED WEU ASSEMBLY DEFENSE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON "CONSULTATIONS AND DECISIONS IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE", PREPARED LARGELY ON BASIS OF COMMITTEE'S (AND CRITCHLEY'S) TRIPS TO US IN MARCH 1974. REPORT WAS EXCELLENT EXPOSITION OF NEED FOR FAR CLOSER CONSULTATIVE TIES BETWEEN EUROPE AND US, AND MADE SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT RECOMMENDATIONS (E.G. MORE FREQUENT NATO SUMMITS; INVITE US TO ATTEND APPROPRIATE MEETINGS OF EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS WHEN POLICY ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN IS IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATION), WHICH, HOWEVER WERE GUTTED BY AMENDMENT IN ASSEMBLY PLENARY SESSION. KEY ELEMENTS OF CRITCHLEY'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS SENT SEPTEL.

3. FINAL LANGUAGE OF CRITCHLEY REPORT ADOPTED BY ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDS (A) IMPROVE CONSULTATIONS IN NAC THROUGH ATTENDANCE OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR, (B) IMPROVE CONSULTATIONS BY MAINTAINING IN NAC FULL EXCHANGE, CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION IRRESPECTIVE OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS IN WHICH PROBLEMS MAY ARISE (C) NAC PAY MORE ATTENTION TO ARTICLE 2 OF NATO TREATY (TRADE AND ECONOMIC MATTERS), (D) EC-9 SHOULD CONSULT WITH UNITED STATES ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN WHEN FORMULATION OF DECISIONS IS SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TO ALLOW NINE TO DEFEND COMMON POINT OF VIEW BUT BEFORE NINE HAVE FINALIZED THEIR DECISION", (E) ENSURE THAT BILATERAL CHANNELS OF INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION WITH THE US REMAIN OPEN.

4. SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH TREATMENT OF CRITCHLEY REPORT, ASSEMBLY APPROVED UNCHANGED REPORT ON OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN EUROPE AND US ON SOLVING PRESENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS, PREPARED BY

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SIEGLERSCHMIDT (FRG-SPD), REPORT BASED LARGELY ON
ASSEMBLY GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VISIT TO US IN MARCH
1974, AND RECOMMENDS THAT WEU COUNCIL CONSIDER
WHAT REPERCUSSIONS THE PROBLEM RAISED BY CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN EUROPE AND US MIGHT HAVE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY
AND INCLUDE THESE MATTERS IN ITS AGENDA AS A MAIN DUTY
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UNDER BRUSSELS TREATY. IT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT WEU

COUNCIL MEET PRIOR TO EACH MEETING OF NAC TO PREPARE DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO.

5. COMMENT: PRIOR TO ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF CRITCHLEY'S REPORT, FRENCH PRESS HAD LABELED HIM WITH PEGORATIVE TERM "ATLANTICIST". FURTHERMORE, CRITCHLEY CAME UNDER PUBLIC ATTACK BY SOME PARANOIC FRENCH ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. MOREOVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT UK FOREIGN OFFICE HAD OBJECTED TO CRITCHLEY REPORT'S RECOMMENDATION THAT US SIT IN ON EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETINGS WHEN THEY DISCUSSED ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WATERED-DOWN "US-EC CONSULTATIONS" FORMULA FINALLY AGREED TO (PARA 3D ABOVE) WAS PREPARED BY FRENCH REPS AND SUBMITTED BY SIEGLERSCHMIDT, WHO SEEMED TO WANT (A) TO SHOW PRIMACY OF HIS POLITICAL COMMITTEE OVER CRITCHLEY'S DEFENSE COMMITTEE IN DEFINING ASSEMBLY STAND ON CONSULTATION ISSUE, AND (B) TO REDUCE SUBSTANCE IN RECOMMENDATION PERTAINING TO NATO, AND TO US ROLE IN CONSULTATION WITH EC IN EFFORT TO GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO WEU ORGANS. OVERALL EFFECT WAS TO ACHIEVE (A), BUT DEBATE AND REPORTS THEMSELVES GAVE STRONG TESTIMONY TO ASSEMBLY'S SUPPORT OF NATO AND OF CLOSER US-EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS. CRITCHLEY AND SIEGLERSCHMIDT REPORTS POUCHED EUR/RPM. WE BELIEVE READERS OF THESE REPORTS WILL SEE THAT DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS DURING MARCH VISITS BY ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES HAVE BORNE HANDSOME DIVIDENDS.
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